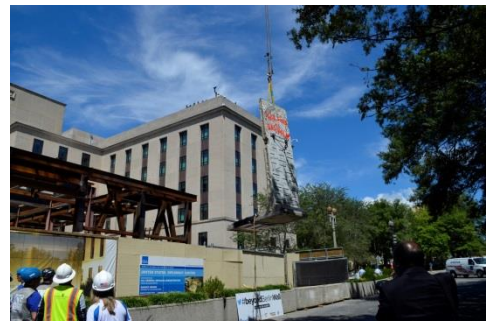


# UNITED STATES DIPLOMACY CENTER

## BERLIN WALL – *SIGNATURE SEGMENT*



### A Priceless Artifact:

The *Signature Segment* of the Berlin Wall installed at the U.S. Diplomacy Center features signatures of individuals who played historic roles in advancing Germany's reunification and re-establishing democracy in its eastern regions. Among the more than twenty signers of the *Signature Segment* are three government leaders at the center of the Cold War's end – U.S. President George H. W. Bush, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, and Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev, as well as Polish labor union leader and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Lech Wałęsa, along with other political, diplomatic, and pro-democracy figures who helped bring down the Berlin Wall and peacefully reunify Germany.

Leipzig artist Michael Fischer-Art painted the segment, depicting protesters during Leipzig's "Peaceful Revolution" demonstrations 1988-89. Fischer-Art had created many of the original banners protesters carried as they chanted, "Wir sind das Volk" ("We are the People"), "Freiheit" ("Freedom"), and other pro-democracy messages.

### A Unique Journey into History:

In 2009, Verbundnetz Gas (VNG) of Leipzig, Germany, purchased the *Signature Segment*. In spring, 2010, VNG sent the *Signature Segment* on an education tour across Europe. During this tour, other signatures were added. In 2014, VNG presented the *Signature Segment* to the Atlantic Council, which sent the segment on its transatlantic journey to the German Embassy in Washington, D.C., for display in conjunction with the 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. On October 7, 2015, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry formally accepted the segment on behalf of the U.S. Diplomacy Center from German President Joachim Gauck, one of the original signers.

### Celebrating a Diplomatic Triumph:

Highlighting the important role diplomacy and the courage of individuals played in ending the Cold War and bringing down the Wall, the *Signature Segment* will have pride of place in the first museum dedicated to telling the story of American diplomacy. The *Signature Segment* serves as a permanent reminder of the strong bonds of the transatlantic alliance that maintain a Europe that is whole, free, and at peace. What once stood as a symbol of division, isolation, and repression is now a testament to the strength of diplomacy and the courage and triumph of freedom-loving people.

### The Exhibit:

Towering over 13 feet (four meters) high and weighing nearly three tons, the *Signature Segment* of the Berlin Wall will be one of the first objects visitors encounter as they enter the Center. Visitors will see the historic signatures on one side and the powerful symbols on the other. Dynamic interpretive materials will help audiences appreciate how critical diplomacy is to ensuring a peaceful and prosperous future.

Prior to the U.S. Diplomacy Center's opening, visitors can virtually tour the online exhibit "Voices of U.S. Diplomacy and the Berlin Wall." The exhibit features extensive archival photos and videos, speeches, and oral histories recounting the key diplomatic events leading to the fall of the Wall in November 1989.



diplomacy.state.gov



usdc@state.gov



@DiplomacyCenter



/USDiplomacyCenter



[diplomacy.state.gov](http://diplomacy.state.gov)



[usdc@state.gov](mailto:usdc@state.gov)



[@DiplomacyCenter](https://twitter.com/DiplomacyCenter)



[/USDiplomacyCenter](https://www.facebook.com/USDiplomacyCenter)

10/1/15



[diplomacy.state.gov](http://diplomacy.state.gov)



[usdc@state.gov](mailto:usdc@state.gov)



[@DiplomacyCenter](https://twitter.com/DiplomacyCenter)



[/USDiplomacyCenter](https://www.facebook.com/USDiplomacyCenter)

10/1/15

10/7/15